

## INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)

SITE NAME: Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District (Paris, IDAHO) SITE # 2

LOCATION: S. 1st + W. 2nd Blocks 18 and 20, Paris Townsite (see Verbal Boundary Description and Inventory entries)

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Multiple, see continuation sheet

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: approximately ten acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes the inventoried structures and the property on which they stand, which is enclosed by boundaries shown as the dotted line.

UTM(S): See continuation sheet #4. on the enclosed sketch map, block 18 lots 4-8 and block 20 lots 1,2,9,10.

DATE OR PERIOD: 1860's - 1870's EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, social/humanitarian movements, agriculture

DESCRIPTION: Good Condition      altered      original site

The Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District includes four houses and a barn which were built, possibly in the late 1860's, for the plural wives of the chief colonizer of Paris. The houses were originally virtually identical one-story adobe brick cabins, with laterally-running gabled roofs, hip-roofed cross facade porches, and end chimneys (see photograph #6). Some of Paris' oldest structures, all the cabins have been altered, especially with regard to surface fabric. But while none of the surviving houses can be considered individually eligible for the National Register solely on architectural grounds, they make a cohesive group even in those terms. The massing of the original house is unmistakable in each case and suggests the hall-and-parlor folk house type. The additions, generally to the rear, have in most cases followed the folk pattern of a gabled ell with shed porches and lean-tos. The one surviving barn, which is associated with the Sarah Peck Rich house (site d, below) is a good, unaltered example of the town lot agricultural structures which were the norm in the Mormon village of the period.

Moreover, the houses can still be physically experienced as a group. They went up on contiguous lots, within close hailing distance of each other; relatively few twentieth-century structures have intervened between them. There are no significant later structures on the east side of South Second West between sites b and c. On the west side of the street, two relatively unobtrusive bungalows and a mobile home--the latter moved onto a location south of the Sarah Rich house since photograph #5 was made in May 1979--intervene between sites a and d. There is also an asbestos-sided frame machine shed to the west of site d (visible to the right of the house in photograph #4). The boundaries have been drawn to exclude these unrelated structures.

The boundaries are also drawn to exclude a hall-and-parlor house on the lot next west from site c. This house, which is similar enough to the four earlier Rich houses to be mistaken for one of them, was built at a later date by a son of Emmeline Rich. It is excluded because it is not a generational sibling of the nominated houses, and is also modernized, but it is certainly compatible with the streetscape they create.

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Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (continued):

on the attached sketch map entitled "Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District". The enclosed properties include, in block 18, all of lots 4, 5 and 8 and the south halves of lots 6 and 7; and in block 20 the north half of lot 10, the south one-half of the north one-half of lot 9, and the south one-half of lot 1.

### INVENTORY:

- a. Harriet Rich house, northwest corner South Second West and West Second South. The hip-roofed, outset porch on this house has been enclosed and sided with wooden shingles: the original brick fabric of the main cabin has been stuccoed. Massing and disposition of elements is still apparent (centered front door, endwall windows, endwall chimneys—although the surviving one probably originally interior, has been outset and stuccoed). Additions are true to type. A lower-pitched gabled ell with an end chimney extends to the rear. Its shed-roofed sections, enclosed on the west and forming an open porch to the east, render the floor plan of the whole rectangular. There is a frame shed behind the ell.

The brick fabric of the ell is still exposed. Segmentally arched heads and multi-light upper panes are still visible in the windows of the front section, as is the bed molding in the gables.

- b. Mary Ann Rich house, northeast corner West Second South and South Second West. The massing of this house is identical as regards the core and very similar as regards the rear sections to the Harriet Rich house on the next corner west. Again the roof is gabled, and the entry is centered in the long side. Here the original porch has been removed rather than enclosed, so the flanking front windows are readily apparent. Windows on the side elevations are to the left of center behind the chimneys, as on the other houses. Chimneys are interior and set at the ends of the ridgebeams. One of them has been rebuilt, but an early corbelled chimney survives on the west end. The main rear section is a lower gabled ell, with enclosed shed-roofed side sections and an end chimney which also retains its corbelling. A still lower, hip-roofed section at the extreme rear corresponds to the northernmost frame section of the site # a house.

The whole of this structure has been veneered with aluminum siding. There is an additional chimney of modern construction on the west side, and a modern overdoor in front.

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Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District

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INVENTORY (continued):

- c. Emmeline Rich house, West First South near South Second West. The most altered of these four Rich houses, which faces north on the opposite side of block 18, retains the distinctive profile of the front-facing, laterally-oriented, symmetrically-disposed hall-and-parlor cabin. The lower-pitched perpendicular ell at rear is also distinguishable, though it is blurred by a modern addition appended to it on the east. There is also a shed-roofed addition to the main cabin on the west. The chimneys and porch have been lost. There is a contemporary metal overdoor at the entry. The whole has been aluminum-sided.
- d. Sarah Peck Rich house, 108 South First West. A small enclosed porch has been outset from the centered front entry of this cabin. On either side of the entry are multi-light windows, under segmental arches still visible through the present stucco surface. The arches also show on the left of center end-wall windows. A corbelled brick chimney survives under stucco on the south end. The lower-pitched gabled rear ell is longer than on the other houses, with a centered as well as an end chimney. The usual shed-roofed side sections fill the intersections of main cabin and rear ell. An early picket fence separates the house from a strip of orchard to the south. To the rear of the orchard is a two-story frame barn.
- e. Sarah Rich barn, South First West. The Sarah Rich barn is a well preserved example of the horse and hay barns of Bear Lake Valley. In profile these barns are tall and narrow structures with rectangular floor plans under a gable roof. The Rich barn has a typical appendage, a full-length, one-story lean-to extending along its northern side. Built on an incline, the barn resembles a bank barn, with a lower level door on the east gable which hay can be hoisted by pulley to the loft. The barn is frame with vertical lumber siding. Its forty-five degree gable roof is covered with metal sheeting.

Owners - Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District

Sites a, d and e (Harriet Rich house and Sarah Peck Rich house and barn):

John W. Spencer  
Paris, ID 83261

Site b (Mary Ann Rich house):

Alan Hill  
Paris, ID 83261

Site c (Emmeline Rich house):

Delmoine Hansen  
Paris, ID 83261

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Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District

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**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District is architecturally and historically significant as the most graphically drawn example of polygamous architecture extant in Paris. Other polygamous arrangements are known to have existed in town, such as the Price and Stucki groups, but the cluster of Rich houses most clearly show their familial connection with each other in shape and location. Despite their altered exteriors, these four houses are the oldest and only remaining structures built of adobe brick. This sturdy building material, favored by Brigham Young, and widely used in settlements in southern Utah, was never very popular in Paris. It was, however, used as nogging in between the studs of balloon frame buildings, such as the Sutton house (site #13).

It was appropriate that adobe be used most by the Rich family since their ties with Young were long-standing. Rather than building frame cabins as an intermediary step to larger, more solid houses, Rich went directly to the brick, which must have encouraged an impression of stability and permanence amidst the more common log dwellings of the very young settlement.

Besides their architectural distinction, the four Rich homes must be noted for their connection with figures of state importance. According to oral sources, Charles Rich, the founding pioneer of Paris, did not have a house of his own. Rather, he made regular visits to each wife in these cabins. The strict democracy of the physical forms, each wife given identical quarters with shared outbuildings, was very much in keeping with the Mormon efforts to make the settlements homogenous and unified.

These four cabins were preceded by five hall-and-parlor log cabins, built in 1864. The eldest wife, Sarah D., remained in Salt Lake City for her health, and another wife, Eliza, died before the adobe cabins were constructed. The most notable figure among the wives was Emeline Rich, whose house is site c. She was a well-read, self-taught physician and obstetrician, who carried on an active practice in Paris. Her biography was included in the 1904 Progressive Men of Southern Idaho.

The strength of the visual and physical relationship between the Rich houses enables us to view a segment of Mormon culture long past, but one which was very much a part of Paris' history and contributed to her architectural character. For its association with Charles C. Rich, and for its rare state of preservation among other Mormon settlements in Idaho--no comparable group has previously been included in the State Historic Sites Inventory--this historic district of polygamous houses is considered to have statewide distinction and merit.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Wives of Charles C. Rich Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

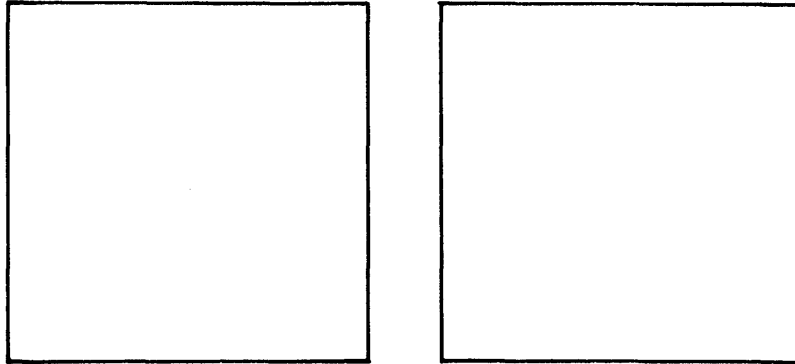
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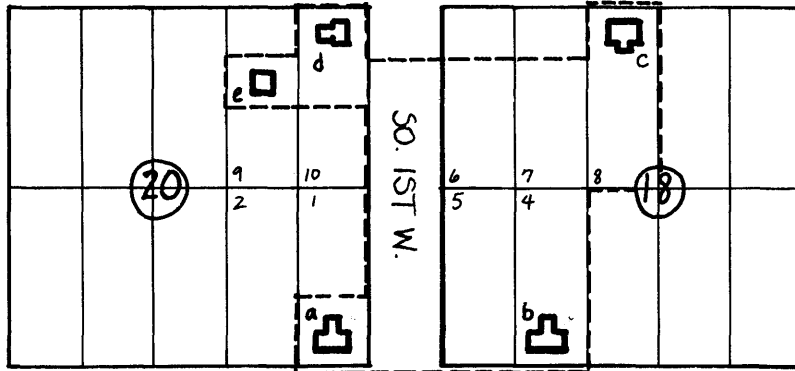
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UTMS:

- A. 12/4,66, 830/46, 74, 600
- B. 12/4,66, 830/46, 74, 480
- C. 12/4,66, 790/46, 74, 350
- D. 12/4, 66, 660/46, 74, 350
- E. 12/4,66, 550/46, 74, 540
- F. 12/4, 66, 650/46, 74, 600



WEST 1ST SO.



WEST 2ND SO.

**WIVES OF CHARLES C. RICH**

**HISTORIC DISTRICT**

PARIS, IDAHO 1980

(NOT TO SCALE)

----- DISTRICT BOUNDARY